Public Law 101-352
101st Congress

An Act

To direct the completion of the research recommended by the Technical Study Group on Cigarette and Little Cigar Fire Safety and to provide for an assessment of the practicality of a cigarette fire safety performance standard.

Aug. 10, 1990
[H.R. 293]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1990.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

15 USC 2054 note.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1990".

(b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) cigarette-ignited fires are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States,

(2) in 1987, there were 1,492 deaths from cigarette-ignited fires, 3,809 serious injuries, and $395,000,000 in property damage caused by such fires,

(3) the final report of the Technical Study Group on Cigarette and Little Cigar Fire Safety under the Cigarette Safety Act of 1984 determined that (A) it is technically feasible and may be commercially feasible to develop a cigarette that will have a significantly reduced propensity to ignite furniture and mattresses, and (B) the overall impact on other aspects of the United States society and economy may be minimal,

(4) the final report of the Technical Study Group on Cigarette and Little Cigar Fire Safety under the Cigarette Safety Act of 1984 further determined that the value of a cigarette with less of a likelihood to ignite furniture and mattresses which would prevent property damage and personal injury and loss of life is economically incalculable,

(5) it is appropriate for the Congress to require by law the completion of the research described in the final report of the Technical Study Group on Cigarette and Little Cigar Fire Safety and an assessment of the practicability of developing a performance standard to reduce cigarette ignition propensity, and

(6) it is appropriate for the Consumer Product Safety Commission to utilize its expertise to complete the recommendations for further work and report to Congress in a timely fashion.

SEC. 2. COMPLETION OF FIRE SAFETY RESEARCH.

15 USC 2054 note.

(a) CENTER FOR FIRE RESEARCH.—At the request of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Institute for Standards and Technology's Center for Fire Research shall—

(1) develop a standard test method to determine cigarette ignition propensity,

(2) compile performance data for cigarettes using the standard test method developed under paragraph (1), and

(3) conduct laboratory studies on and computer modeling of ignition physics to develop valid, user-friendly predictive capability.

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The Commission shall make such request not later than the expiration of 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) COMMISSION.—The Consumer Product Safety Commission shall—

(1) design and implement a study to collect baseline and followup data about the characteristics of cigarettes, products ignited, and smokers involved in fires, and

(2) develop information on societal costs of cigarette-ignited fires.

(c) HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—The Consumer Product Safety Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall develop information on changes in the toxicity of smoke and resultant health effects from cigarette prototypes. The Commission shall not obligate more than $50,000 to develop such information.

15 USC 2054 note.

SEC. 3. ADVISORY GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Technical Advisory Group to advise and work with the Consumer Product Safety Commission and National Institute for Standards and Technology's Center for Fire Research on the implementation of this Act. The Technical Advisory Group may hold hearings to develop information to carry out its functions. The Technical Advisory Group shall terminate 1 month after the submission of the final report of the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission under section 4.

Termination date.

(b) MEMBERS.—The Technical Advisory Group shall consist of the same individuals appointed to the Technical Study Group on Cigarette and Little Cigar Fire Safety under section 3(a) of the Cigarette Safety Act of 1984. If such an individual is unavailable to serve on the Technical Advisory Group, the entity which such individual represented on such Technical Study Group shall submit to the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission the name of another individual to be appointed by the Chairman to represent such group on the Technical Advisory Group.

15 USC 2054 note.

SEC. 4. REPORTS.

The Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in consultation with the Technical Advisory Group, shall submit to Congress three reports on the activities undertaken under section 2 as follows: The first such report shall be made not later than 13 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the second such report shall be made not later than 25 months after such date, and the final such report shall be made not later than 36 months after such date.

15 USC 2054 note.

SEC. 5. CONFIDENTIALITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any information provided to the National Institute for Standards and Technology's Center for Fire Research, to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, or to the Technical Advisory Group under section 2 which is designated as trade secret or confidential information shall be treated as trade secret or confidential information subject to section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code, and section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, and shall not be revealed, except as provided under subsection (b). No member or employee of the Center for Fire Research, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, or the Technical Advisory Group and

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no person assigned to or consulting with the Center for Fire Research, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, or the Technical Advisory Group, shall disclose any such information to any person who is not a member or employee of, assigned to, or consulting with, the Center for Fire Research, Consumer Product Safety Commission, or the Technical Advisory Group unless the person submitting such information specifically and in writing authorizes such disclosure.

(b) CONSTRUCTION.—Subsection (a) does not authorize the withholding of any information from any duly authorized subcommittee or committee of the Congress, except that if a subcommittee or committee of the Congress requests the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Institute for Standards and Technology's Center for Fire Research, or the Technical Advisory Group to provide such information, the Commission, the Center for Fire Research, or Technical Advisory Group shall notify the person who provided the information of such a request in writing.

Approved August 10, 1990.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: H.R. 293:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 136 (1990):
July 30, considered and passed House and Senate.

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